



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

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Governor Rell Issues Storm Update *Says Weather Conditions Are Worsening*

Governor M. Jodi Rell said tonight the heaviest snowfall from the first major winter storm to hit the state this year will be moving through the state over the next several hours, and said state agencies are responding on multiple fronts.

"I have directed the Department of Transportation to make its maximum effort to keep the roads clear, and I know that every truck in the state's inventory is on the job," Governor Rell said. "In addition we have about 250 contractors supplementing the state fleet.

"I have more than 100 troops from the National Guard on standby at armories around the state to handle any tasks that may arise," the Governor said. "My staff is monitoring tide levels through the night and we are prepared to respond to the possible threat of coastal flooding in the morning.

"Personnel from the Department of Public Safety, especially our State Police, are also out in force," Governor Rell said. "The Emergency Operations Center is fully staffed and will remain open through the night.

The Governor received a briefing at mid-evening.

- Snowfall levels as of 7 p.m. ranged from 2.75 inches in Union to 7 inches reported in New Canaan
- Extremely heavy snowfall – as much as 4 inches an hour – was likely to begin after 9 p.m. and continue through around 1 a.m.
- "Wraparound" effects on tides and snowfall are likely as the last of the storm moves through the state

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- Power outages totaled 514, a low number for a storm of this magnitude
- State Police reported only a small number of minor accidents and no road closures
- Bradley International Airport was closed at 6:30 p.m.
- Bus routes were closed at 8 p.m. but service was expected to be on a normal Sunday schedule

Governor Rell said the state is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to reduce the risk of flooding in coastal areas. Town officials have been alerted and are being kept apprised of tide levels as the storm progresses.

“The best advice for everyone remains: Stay home,” Governor Rell said. “This is a serious storm and needs to be taken seriously.”

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